MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After declaration of Cellular Jail as National Monument, A&N Administration has decided to construct a new jail. Site for the Jail Complex has been finalised. Construction work has also started.

(c) During the second world war, due to bombing and also by an earth-quake sometime in 1942-43, all the seven wings of the Cellular Jail had suffered damages. Restoration of 4 wings was not found feasible. However the remaining three wings that suffered comparatively less damage, have been restored and are being maintained properly.

Size of Indian Army vis-a-vis Pakistan

556. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Pakistani army has grown fast in the last two years while the size of the Indian army has been trimmed down;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government on the increase in the size of Pakistani Army; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the size of the Indian Army in view of steep increase in the size of Pakistan Army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) Government are aware of the increase in size of the Pakistani Army and acquisition of sophisticated weapons far beyond its legitimate defence requirements.

(b) and (c) Government keep a close watch on all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Security on Indo-Pak borders

557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any persistent demand to create a security belt on Indo-Pak borders to check the infiltration of Pakistani agents into the country;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when complete security belt would be created at the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Gadgil formula

558. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised Gadgil formula on Central Assistance to States has been accepted by all the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments have urged the Centre to take the area factor into consideration before granting Central Assistance to any State;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what are the guidelines adopted to provide Central assistance to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Deputy Chairman announced the revised Gadgil formula as consensus formula.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The States having large area are to be allocated Central Assistance under special development problems. One of the special development problems together

carring 15 per cent weight in the revised Gadgil formula is "Exceptionally sparse or thickly populated areas."

(d) Datails of the revised Formula are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Brief note on distribution of Central Assistance for State plans during eighth plan (1990—95)

Distribution of Central Assistance for States for Seventh Plan (1985—90) was made under modified Gadgil formula as approved by the National Development Council in August, 1980. In the context of Eighth Five Year Plan (1990—95), further revision of the existing formula was considered by the NDC in its meeting held on 11th October, 1990. The principles as now approved under the revised formula are briefly indicated below:—

(i) From the total Central assistance a reasonable amount for special area programmes *viz.* Hill areas, tribal areas and border areas is to be set apart.

(ii) From the balance, 30 per cent amount is to be set apart for meeting the requirements of 10 special category States (including North Eastern Council).

(iii) The balance 70 per cent amount is to be allocated among 15 non-special category States according to the criteria laid down below:—

	Weights (%)	
	Existing Formula	Revised Formula
1. Population	60	55
2. Per capita income		
(i) States with per capita income below national average based on deviation method	20	20
(ii) All States based on distance from the highest per capita income	..	5
3. Tax Effort	10	..
4. Fiscal Management	..	5
5. Special Problems	10	15 (Special Development Problem)
Total :	100	100

2. Special development problems would cover (1) coastal areas (2) special environmental issues (3) flood and drought prone areas (4) exceptionally sparse or thickly populated areas (5) special financial difficulties for achieving minimum reasonable plan size (6) desert problems (7) problems of slums in urban areas.

3. It has also been decided that the overall gain or loss to any State under the revised formula as compared to the existing formula is to be restricted to the maximum of 7 per cent.

4. The pattern of Central assistance to Assam and Jammu & Kashmir will also be the same as for other Special category States *i.e.* 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan.

5. Keeping in view the points raised by certain States, Deputy Chairman responded by saying that "We will sit together and on the basis of new allocations that

will be made in the Plan, we will try to workout what will be available under the new formula". Chairman also said that "We will have one round more with every State. We will not rush with it. If any State is going to face a serious problem, we will take cognizance of it."

Thorium fuelled nuclear power plants

559. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish nuclear power plants fuelled by thorium in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined the possibility of putting up such power plants in the country; and

(c) if so, to what extent thorium based power plants would be more effective for the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir. India's Nuclear Power Programme does envisage large scale use of thorium which has to be converted into fissile Uranium-233 before using it as fuel in the Nuclear Power Plants. Thorium based nuclear reactors are still in the R&D stage and it will be around the year 2000 that various aspects of research will be completed. It is only after that the Government shall examine the schedule for setting up thorium based nuclear power plants keeping in view the overall power situation in the country at that time. Meanwhile, a modest beginning has been made by building small reactors using Uranium-233, as part of our programme on thorium utilization. Purnima-III experimental reactor has been commissioned in November 1990 at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and 30 KW Kamini reactor will go critical soon at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpkkam.

(c) With the increased demand for power in future, the thorium based nuclear power plants will offer a better alternative to the country because of the larger availability of thorium as compared to uranium.

ULFA militants in Assam

560. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of ULFA militants apprehended by the Army in Assam so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the arrested persons are only innocent people and not ULFA militants; and

(c) if so, by when such arrested innocent persons would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per information available upto 24-12-1990, 486 ULFA militants were apprehended by the Army.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Where it is revealed that the person arrested has no links with ULFA, he is released.

People killed in Punjab and Assam

561. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed by the militants in Punjab during the last twelve months;

(b) the number of persons killed in Assam by ULFA during the same period; and

(c) the reasons for which the Disturbed Area Act and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act have not been promulgated in Punjab?